

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

106th Congress  
2nd Session

Vote No. 7

February 8, 2000, 2:18 p.m.  
Page S-470 Temp. Record

## NUCLEAR WASTE/Cloture (Managers' Substitute)

**SUBJECT:** Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act . . . S. 1287. Lott motion to close debate on the Lott (for Murkowski) substitute amendment No. 2808.

### ACTION: CLOTURE MOTION AGREED TO, 94-3

**SYNOPSIS:** As introduced, S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act, will set deadlines for the Department of Energy (DoE) to meet its contractual obligations to accept and to store at a single permanent repository the nuclear waste generated by the commercial nuclear power industry; that site will also be used to store all Federal nuclear waste. Congress has selected Yucca Mountain, Nevada, as the site to be considered for the permanent repository. Yucca Mountain is immediately adjacent to the Nevada Test Site, at which more than 800 above ground and below ground nuclear weapon detonation tests have been conducted over the last 50 years. An interim repository will be built at the Nevada Test Site.

**The Lott (for Murkowski) substitute amendment** would enact the underlying bill with the following differences:

- it would change the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) final decision date concerning whether to authorize construction of the repository from December 31, 2006, to January 31, 2006;
- it would allow the EPA to be the final authority for setting radiation protection rules for the final repository, pending consultation and agreement with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the NRC (an absence of an agreement would prohibit the publication or adoption of any rules by the EPA before June 1, 2001);
- it would require the EPA within 30 days of the enactment of this Act to provide a written comparison of a previously released EPA proposed rule and the recommendations of the NAS and to provide the scientific basis of that proposed rule;
- it would require the NAS and NRC to submit reports on the reasonability of that proposed rule and to notify the EPA of its findings;
- it would authorize the DoE to take title to the spent nuclear fuel from the Cooperative Power Reactor Demonstration Program, thereby assuming all responsibility and liability for the interim storage and permanent disposal thereof of that waste, and to compensate Dairyland Power Cooperative for any related costs from the date of taking title until the DoE removes the spent nuclear

(See other side)

YEAS (94)				NAYS (3)		NOT VOTING (3)	
Republicans (54 or 100%)		Democrats (40 or 93%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (3 or 7%)	Republicans (1)	Democrats (2)
Abraham	Helms	Akaka	Johnson		Boxer	McCain <sup>-2</sup>	Kerrey <sup>-2</sup>
Allard	Hutchinson	Baucus	Kerry		Bryan		Kennedy <sup>-2AY</sup>
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Bayh	Kohl		Reid		
Bennett	Inhofe	Biden	Landrieu				
Bond	Jeffords	Bingaman	Lautenberg				
Brownback	Kyl	Breaux	Leahy				
Bunning	Lott	Byrd	Levin				
Burns	Lugar	Cleland	Lieberman				
Campbell	Mack	Conrad	Lincoln				
Chafee	McConnell	Daschle	Mikulski				
Cochran	Murkowski	Dodd	Moynihan				
Collins	Nickles	Dorgan	Murray				
Coverdell	Roberts	Durbin	Reed				
Craig	Roth	Edwards	Robb				
Crapo	Santorum	Feingold	Rockefeller				
DeWine	Sessions	Feinstein	Sarbanes				
Domenici	Shelby	Graham	Schumer				
Enzi	Smith, Bob	Harkin	Torricelli				
Fitzgerald	Smith, Gordon	Hollings	Wellstone				
Frist	Snowe	Inouye	Wyden				
Gorton	Specter						
Gramm	Stevens						
Grams	Thomas						
Grassley	Thompson						
Gregg	Thurmond						
Hagel	Voinovich						
Hatch	Warner						

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

fuel from the site;

- it would decrease the minimum rate at which the DoE shall accept high-level waste containers;
- it would require the Secretary of Energy to define with contract holders a specified multi-year period for each shipping campaign;
- it would transfer 76,000 acres of public land to Nye County, Nevada, Lincoln County, Nevada, and Caliente, Nevada;
- it would authorize a Decommissioning Pilot Program to decommission and decontaminate the sodium-cooled fast breeder experimental test-site reactor located in northwest Arkansas; funds from the Nuclear Waste Fund would not be used for the pilot program; and
- it would direct the DoE to report on the operations of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant and on the available alternatives that would allow that plant to be operated by Northern States Power Company.

On February 8, 2000, Senator Lott sent to the desk, for himself and others, a motion to close debate on the Murkowski substitute amendment. By unanimous consent, the vote on the cloture motion was held on February 8.

NOTE: A three-fifths majority (60) vote is required to invoke cloture.

**Those favoring** the motion to invoke cloture contended:

We believe it is vital to move this process forward in order to effectively address the current problems we are facing with spent nuclear fuel. Many of us oppose the legislation before us, the underlying bill, and the substitute amendment, but we agree that resolving this issue is not a partisan matter. We have an obligation to the American taxpayers to get this issue settled. We urge our colleagues to vote to invoke cloture.

**No arguments were expressed in opposition to the motion.**